

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 10, 2005

AUSTIN BILL THAT PROMOTES SMALL BUSINESS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED OUT OF COMMITTEE

INDIANAPOLIS -- House Bill 1822, a small business regulatory flexibility bill that was authored by State Rep. Terri Austin (D-Anderson), was unanimously approved today by the House Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business. This is legislation that will give small businesses a say in government regulatory actions.

House Bill 1822 works to minimize the burden of unnecessary or inappropriate regulations on small businesses by requiring a state agency intending to change or adopt a rule that may affect small businesses to provide an economic impact statement for the new rule. State agencies also will be required to explore alternative options that would have less of a negative impact on small businesses.

"The problem is people do not have the chance to weigh in on a lot of the rules that are put in place," said Austin. "This legislation will change that. It will also give us a chance to collect current and thorough data on small businesses in Indiana, information that the state has neglected. This legislation is win-win for everyone."

Small businesses will be encouraged to submit opinions regarding regulatory changes and to assess whether the change would have a negative impact. Suggestions for alternative regulatory methods will be encouraged as well.

"Small business owners know what is best for their businesses," Austin added. "By giving them the opportunity to say which rules work for them and which ones do not, we will be creating an environment that allows small businesses to flourish. This is not only helpful to the businesses themselves, but will also create jobs and prosperity in Indiana."

There are more than 445,000 small businesses in Indiana which are responsible for approximately 48 percent of the jobs in the state. The income from small business in Indiana amounts to close to \$11 billion per year.